

REMARKS

In the July 16, 2004 Office Action, the drawings were objected to and claims 1-6, 8-17 and 19-22 stand rejected in view of prior art. Claims 7 and 18 are withdrawn from further consideration. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the July 16, 2004 Office Action, Applicant has amended the drawings, the specification and claims 1, 8, 10, 12, and 19 as indicated above. Applicant has also canceled claims 7, 11, 18, and 21-22. Thus, claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-17, and 19-20 are pending, with claims 1, 10 and 12 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Election of Species

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, Applicant's election of Species I without traverse in the telephone conversation on July 1, 2004 was acknowledged. Thus, non-elected claims 7 and 18 were withdrawn from further consideration. In this amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 7 and 18 as presented above.

Drawings

On pages 3-4 of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR §1.84(p)(5). More specifically, the Office Action points out that the reference numbers of Figures 10-14 do not match with those in the specification. In response, Applicant has filed herewith a Request for Approval of Proposed Drawing Corrections. Applicant believes that the drawings now comply with 37 CFR §1.84(p)(5). Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections.

Specification

Applicant has also amended the specification to correct the typographical errors and to provide proper antecedent basis for the limitations of claims 1 and 12. Applicant believes that the specification is now correct and complies with 37 CFR §1.71 and 37 CFR §1.75(d)(1).

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

On pages 4-6 of the Office Action, claims 1-6, 8-17 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Application Publication 07-303439 to Daiwa Seiko ("439 patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,657,876 to Bieber

("Bieber patent"). In response, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 12 as mentioned above.

More specifically, independent claims 1 and 12 now clearly recite that an engagement surface of the outer flange portion, where the inner flange portion engages the outer flange portion, has a flange-side end that is radially farther away from the bobbin trunk than a bobbin-trunk side end is. This language is supported by Figures 11-13 and page 14, line 32 – page 15, line 20 of the specification. Clearly, this arrangement is *not* disclosed or suggested by the 439 patent, the Bieber patent, or any other prior art of record.

The arrangement of the present invention as set forth in claims 1 and 12 is advantageous in that the outer flange portion prevents deformation of the inner flange portion, as stated on page 15, lines 6-9 of the specification as originally filed. When fishing line is wound around the outer periphery of the bobbin trunk, the inner flange portion tends to deform radially outward (and thus axially toward the bobbin trunk). Since the spool of the present invention as set forth in claims 1 and 12 has the outer flange portion whose flange-side end is radially farther away from the bobbin trunk than its bobbin trunk side end, the engagement surface of the outer flange portion can act as a block that prevents the inner flange portion from deforming radially outward.

Applicant believes that none of the prior art of record discloses or suggests such spool structure or advantage thereof. Regarding the '473 patent, the Office Action concedes on page 5 that it does not disclose an outer flange portion.

Regarding the Bieber patent, the bobbin trunk-side end of the engagement surface of the rim 6 is clearly *closer* to the bobbin trunk than its flange-side end is. This is clearly contrary to the requirement of claims 1 and 12 as now amended. Besides, there is no suggestion in the Bieber patent that the bobbin trunk side end of the engagement surface of the rim 6 be made farther away from the bobbin trunk than its flange side end is.

Regarding dependent claims, claims 7, 11, and 21-22 have been canceled. Applicant believes that the remaining dependent claims 2-6, 8-9, 13-17, and 19-20 are allowable over the prior art of record since they depend from independent claims 1 and 12, and therefore are allowable for the reasons stated above.

Regarding claim 10, it has been amended in independent form further including the limitation that the outer flange portion is made from a magnesium alloy. In this manner, it is possible to secure engagement between the outer flange portion and the inner flange portion,

while ensuring that the outer flange portion prevents deformation of the inner flange portion. Although the Bieber patent discloses that rims 6 are preferably made from nylon, it is silent as to why the rims 6 should be made from nylon. Accordingly, there is no clear suggestion of what "other suitable material (column 2, line 26) should be. Furthermore, the Bieber patent does not disclose or suggest the engagement surface between the outer flange portion and the inner flange portion that have a V-shape. Thus, Applicant believes that claim 10 as amended above is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn in view of the above comments and amendments.

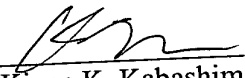
Prior Art Citation

In the Office Action, additional prior art references were made of record. Applicant believes that these references do not render the claimed invention obvious.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-17, and 19-20 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Reply to Office Action of July 16, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes a change to Figures 10-14. These sheets of Figures 10-14 replace the original sheets of Figures 10-14.

Attachment: three (3) replacement sheets